

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 00568 112049Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

EB-07 COME-00 /063 W

----- 128838

R 111920Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9408

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, HA

SUBJECT: BIO: NEW COMMERCE SECRETARY FRANCOIS MURAT

REF: PAUP 0551

1. FRANCOIS MURAT, NAMED COMMERCE & INDUSTRY SECRETARY ON MARCH 8, 1975, WAS, FROM NOV. 27, 1960 UNTIL OCT. 5, 1970, A BOARD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BANK, SECOND IN AUTHORITY ONLY TO ANTONIO ANDRE. SINCE HIS OUSTER FROM THE NATIONAL BANK, WHERE AS A CAREER EMPLOYEE HE HAD CONCURRENTLY SERVED AS ITS COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, MURAT JOINED THE PRIVATE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

2. MURAT WAS SERVING AS THE NATIONAL BANK'S PERSONNEL DIRECTOR IN 1960 WHEN HE, NOE FOURCAND (SERGE FOURCAND'S FATHER), AND JEAN MAGLOIRE WERE SELECTED BY PRES. FRANCOIS DUVALIER TO REPLACE 3 LEADING YOUNGER INTELLECTUALS (JOSEPH CHATELAIN, LEBERT JEAN-PIERRE, AND LOUIS SMITH), WHO AS CAREER OFFICIALS HAD RESISTED DUVALIER'S MANIPULATION OF THE NATIONAL BANK. MURAT APPARENTLY WAS ALWAYS KNOWN AS ONE OF "DUVALIER'S MEN", WHICH GAVE HIM AN INDEPENDENCE THAT IN PART MAY HAVE EXPLAINED BANK DIRECTOR ANTONIO ANDRE'S DISLIKE OF HIM, RESULTING FINALLY IN ANDRE'S SUCCESS IN GETTING DUVALIER'S APPROVAL NOT TO RENEW MURAT'S BOARD MEMBERSHIP IN 1970. ANDRE'S MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN ABOUT MURAT, HOWEVER, WAS HIS CLOSENESS TO ANDRE'S ARCHRIVAL IN 1970, THE THEN FINANCE SECRETARY CLOVIS DESINOR. AT THE TIME ANDRE COMPLAINED FREQUENTLY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 00568 112049Z

TO EMBOFFS OF MURAT'S ALLEGED OBSTRUCTIONISM AND INTERFERENCE ON

DESINOR'S BEHALF. OTHER BANK OFFICIALS REPORTED AT THE TIME THAT DESINOR AND INTERIOR SECRETARY LUCKNER CAMBRONNE WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE TO HAVE MURAT REPLACE ANDRE AS BANK DIRECTOR.

3. DESPITE THIS, OUR FILES INDICATE THAT US EMBOFFS, BUSINESSMEN AND IMF OFFICIALS GENERALLY GAVE MURAT HIGH MARKS, NOTING DURING THE WORST OF THE 1960'S HIS EFFORTS TO GET GUN-FLOURISHING TONTON MACOUTES TO FOLLOW REGULAR BANK PROCEDURES, HIS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE IN THE IMPORTANT LENDING OPERATIONS UNDER HIS SUPERVISION, AND HIS ACCESSIBILITY. HE ALSO CONTROLLED THE SPECIAL HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT FUND FRANCOIS DUVALIER CREATED IN HOPES OF REBUILDING THE ROAD TO CAYES.

4. IN HAILING MURAT'S APPOINTMENT, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NOUVEAU MONDE CALLED HIM AN HONEST AND DISCIPLINED CAREER BANKER, AND A TECHNOCRAT OF THE SORT NEEDED FOR HAITI'S DEVELOPMENT. MURAT'S SWEARING-IN STATEMENT WAS A MODEST, REALISTIC SUMMARY OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

5. MURAT, BELIEVED TO BE IN HIS LATE FORTIES, IS THE SON OF THE LATE PAUL MURAT AND FORMER MARIA CORIOLAN. HE HAS A BROTHER PIL, A DOCTOR, AND 3 SISTERS: MADELEINE (MME. JEAN TROUILLOT), CARMEN (MMD. RENE JEAN-CHARLES, AND FERNANDE (MME ARMEND ALLIEN). HE IS MARRIED TO GLADYS DESMANGLES, SOMEWHAT YOUNGER THAN HE, AND THEY HAVE AT LEAST ONE DAUGHTER, CARINE, AGE UNKNOWN. MME MURAT IS SAID TO BE WELL EDUCATED, AND IN 1969 ATTENDED A FAMILY PLANNING CONFERENCE IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, AFTER VISITING RELATIVES IN CANADA.

6. COMMENT: MURAT REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE AND CONSERVATIVE FORCES IN THE PALACE, AS A CAREER BANKER OF REPUTED COMPETENCE, AND A SOLID DUVALIERIST WHO PRESUMABLY IS FAR MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MME DUVALIER, AND POSSIBLY HENRI SICLAIT THAN WAS THE MAVERICK SERGE FOURCAND. MURAT RETAINS CLOSE TIES WITH CLOVIS DESINOR, ACCORDING TO ONE HAITIAN SOURCE.
ISHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA00568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0905
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacd vx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PAUP 0551
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIO: NEW COMMERCE SECRETARY FRANCOIS MURAT
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, HA, (MURAT, FANCOIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006